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TI Method for separating N-methylpyrrolidone from byproducts

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AB Sepn. of N-methylpyrrolidone from byproducts of its synthesis from .gamma.-butyrolactone and monomethylamine, the byproducts being water, N-methyl-.gamma.-hydroxybutyramide, and high-boiling components, is accomplished in an improved process by redistn. In order to increase the quality and yield of product, the rectification of byproducts is carried out at 30-250 mm Hg pressure in the head of the column in the presence of N-methyl-4-(methylamino)butyramide as sepn. agent, taken in a ratio to the N-methyl-.gamma.-hydroxybutyramide impurity of 0.5-2:1. Concd. N-methylpyrrolidone is removed from plates in the rectifying or distg. section of the column with subsequent isolation of com. N-methylpyrrolidone.

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